Running Automaton

Kit contains:

- 1 running dude template
- 1 wooden cube
- 2 coffee stirrer pieces with hole
- 6 inches of wire
- 1 zip tie
- 1 little cardstock rectangle

You will need: scissors, tape, coloring supplies, and pliers (optional).

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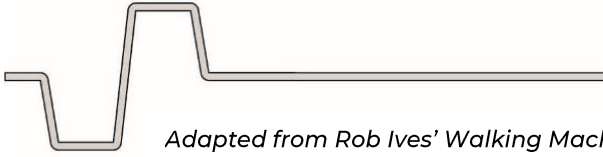
INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Color and cut out your running dude.

Step 2. Bend your dude's legs forward and knees backward along the dotted lines. Bend the feet back at the widest spot.

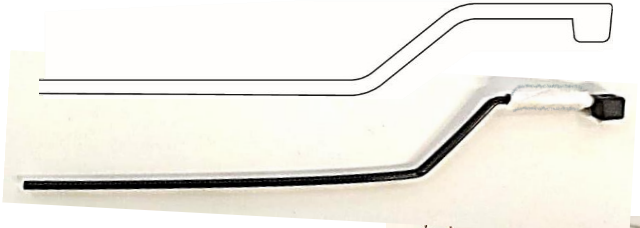
Step 3. Tape the coffee stirrers to opposite faces of the cube with the hole ends sticking up.

Step 4. Prep the wire. Bend one end of the wire to match the template below. It does not need to be perfect. You can use your fingers or pliers if you're fancy.

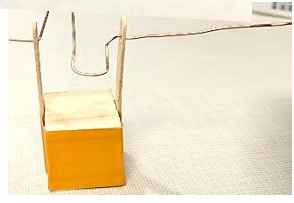


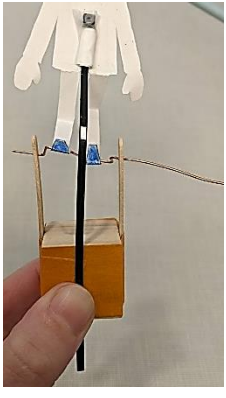
Adapted from Rob Ives' Walking Machine: https://www.robives.com/project/walk/

Step 5. Prep the zip tie. Bend the boxy end of your zip tie to match the template below. Then |roll the little cardstock rectangle around the zip tie and tape in place.



Step 6. Thread the wire through the holes in the coffee stirrers.





Step 7. Tape each of your dude's feet around a horizontal segment of wire. The feet should not stick to the wire.

Step 8. Tape the modified end of the zip tie to your dude's lower back. Now experiment with the height of the zip tie.

Step 9. Test by spinning the wire. Does your dude appear to run? When the zip tie's height results in hilarious running, tape it to the cube. Cut off any extra sticking out the bottom.

Step 10. Bend the loose end of the wire into a crank for optimum fun.

Automa-what?!

An **automaton** is a life-life machine that gives the illusion of moving by itself. The plural, automata, comes from the Greek word αὐτόματα, which means "acting of one's own will."p